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BARRACKS VERSUS PRISONS

PENOLOGY.

Disciplinary Barracks versus Prisons for the Confinement and Reformation of Military Offenders.—The following copy of General Order No. 56 from the War Department at Washington has been received from E. H. Crowder, Judge Advocate General. It outlines an experiment in military discipline that has just been initiated by the War Department. [Eds.]

General orders, No. 56. War Department, Washington, September 17, 1913.

1. General prisoners confined at the United States Military Prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., under sentence for purely military offenses alone, whose record and conduct are such as to entitle them to the privilege, will be afforded an opportunity to receive a special course in military training during a portion of the time that would otherwise be devoted to hard labor. To that end, the formation of one or more, but until further orders not exceeding four, disciplinary companies at said prison is hereby authorized and directed.

2. Except in particular cases in which the commandant of the prison deems such enrollment unwise, all general prisoners of the first class (paragraph 30, Regulations, United States Military Prison, 1909), confined at the United States Military Prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., under sentences for purely military offenses alone, will be enrolled in disciplinary companies, but no such general prisoner shall in any case be excluded from enrollment in a disciplinary company, or from regular participation in the course in military instruction, because his services may be regarded as desirable or necessary elsewhere.

3. Disciplinary companies will be organized as Infantry, and four such companies will constitute a disciplinary battalion.

DETAILS OF ORGANIZATION.

Disciplinary company—Officers.—One captain or first lieutenant detailed as company commander, and 1 lieutenant detailed for duty with the company.

Enlisted men.—One sergeant detailed as acting first sergeant, 1 sergeant detailed as acting quartermaster sergeant, 4 sergeants, and 8 corporals.

General prisoners.—Two under instruction as musicians and 56 under instruction as privates.

The number of general prisoners placed under instruction as privates in a disciplinary company may be increased to 84, in which case the number of enlisted men assigned to duty with the company will be increased by 2 corporals and 2 lance corporals.

Disciplinary battalion—one major or captain detailed as battalion commander, one first lieutenant detailed as battalion adjutant, one sergeant detailed as acting battalion sergeant major, four disciplinary companies.

4. The officers required for duty with disciplinary organizations will be detailed in orders from the War Department, and the enlisted men required for duty as non-commissioned officers of such organizations will be assigned thereto by the commandant of the prison from enlisted men assigned to duty at the prison for that purpose.

5. General prisoners enrolled in disciplinary organizations will be placed under military training and instruction during one-half of each working day, but will be required to work during the other half. Exceptions to this requirement may be made by the commandant in cases of individual skilled workmen, and paroled prisoners absolutely necessary in the work of reconstruction and

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in the operation of the railway and in other like employment, but this discretion will not be exercised in such a way as to deprive these men of a fair amount of military training and instruction.

6. When under instruction as members of a disciplinary organization, and during periods of leisure, general prisoners will be dressed in such uniform, without facings or ornaments, as may be prescribed by the secretary of war. For this purpose obsolete service uniforms will be utilized. When at work, general prisoners enrolled in disciplinary organizations will be dressed in fatigue clothing.

7. Disciplinary organizations will be armed and equipped as infantry, with such exceptions as to equipment as may be recommended by the commandant of the prison and approved by superior authority. The firing pins of rifles placed in the hands of general prisoners enrolled in disciplinary organizations will be removed, but may be replaced temporarily while the prisoner is engaged in gallery practice under official supervision within the prison enclosure.

8. General prisoners enrolled in disciplinary companies will be designated by name and not by number; will not be required to work in the same party with general prisoners not enrolled in disciplinary companies; will be quartered in a separate section of the prison; will be seated at separate tables in the dining room and in a separate section in the chapel; will be permitted the privilege of rendering the prescribed military salute; and when under arms, at work, or at meals, will be permitted to converse with each other under the restrictions that govern enlisted men while similarly engaged.

9. The course of military training and instruction for general prisoners enrolled in disciplinary organizations will include: physical training; personal hygiene, including care of the uniform; the school of the soldier, squad, company, and battalion; dismounted cavalry and field artillery drill; elementary signaling; care of arms and equipment; aiming and sighting drill; gallery practice, rifle and revolver; saber drill; estimating distances; pitching and striking tents; hasty shelter—use of intrenching tools; knots and lashings; duties of enlisted men in military bridge construction; and lectures on the duties of enlisted men in the service of security and information—outposts, advance, rear and flank guards, and scouting.

10. Under the foregoing regulations one disciplinary company will be organized at Castle William, Fort Jay, N. Y.

11. General prisoners confined at Castle William, Fort Jay, N. Y., under sentence for statutory or common-law crimes or misdemeanors alone or in connection with purely military offenses, are not eligible for membership in the disciplinary company to be organized at that place. They will be kept separate from purely military offenders so far as prison facilities permit, with further segregation of felons from misdemeanants. The harder labor will be devolved upon felons.

12. At the Pacific branch of the United States Military Prison, Alcatraz, Cal., where are confined only those general prisoners who have been convicted of statutory or common law crimes or misdemeanors alone or in connection with purely military offenses, the application of these regulations will be deferred until it is determined by experience whether the system should be extended to misdemeanants undergoing sentence; but at this branch prison felons and misdemeanants will be segregated so far as practicable, and detachments

RESTRICTIONS ON PRISONERS' MAIL

to Angel Island and other places in the harbor and to nearby posts for hard labor in construction, improvement, and other public work will, so far as practicable, be drawn from the felon class.

13. The method of dealing with prisoners here outlined is an innovation. The system prescribed is to a certain extent tentative and experimental, and will be extended or its operation circumscribed in the future as experience may suggest.

14. The commandant of the United States Military Prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and of its Pacific branch, and the prison officer, Castle William, Fort Jay, N. Y., will report by letter to the judge advocate general of the army, who will have direction and control, under the secretary of war, of these prisons and their administration. Direct correspondence with chiefs of staff corps and departments, as now authorized, will continue.

15. It is the policy of the War Department to separate, so far as practicable, general prisoners convicted of offenses punishable by penitentiary confinement from general prisoners convicted of purely military offenses or of misdemeanors in connection with purely military offenses. In furtherance of this policy reviewing authorities will designate a penitentiary as the place of confinement of general prisoners sentenced to be confined for more than one year upon conviction of offenses punishable by confinement in a penitentiary under some statute of the United States or under some statute or other law in force in the locality in which the offense was committed (see 97th Article of War), except in individual cases in which the proved circumstances show that the holding of the prisoners so convicted in prison associations with misdemeanants and military offenders will not be to the detriment of the latter. For general prisoners to be confined in penitentiaries under the foregoing rule, reviewing authorities in the United States or Hawaii will designate the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kans., as the place of confinement, except that such prisoners as are residents of Hawaii, Porto Rico, and the canal zone may be confined in local penitentiaries; and reviewing authorities in the Philippine Islands will designate the penitentiary at Bilibid, Manila, P. I., as the place of confinement.

[2079146, A. G. O.]

BY ORDERS OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

LEONARD WOOD,
Major General, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

GEO. ANDREWS,

The Adjutant General.

Restrictions on Prisoners' Mail.—The following data compiled by J. J. Sanders, parole clerk of the Arizona state prison, shows the restrictions placed on mail of the inmates of the various state penal institutions of the United States. It is taken from the report of the superintendent of the Arizona state prison of February 1st, 1913.

Arizona—The inmates of the Arizona state prison are all allowed the privilege of an unlimited daily letter mail. All of the leading magazines and periodicals and several of the leading daily newspapers of the country are subscribed to and paid for by the state. These are turned into the library for the use of all the prisoners.